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INFORMATION REPORT

PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY

Poland

SUBJECT

Communization of Polish Youth/Leaders of ZMP Union
of Polish Youth

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8 Oct 1951

NO. OF PAGES

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT #

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Communists have converted some of the Poles to Communism, however, such converts comprise the opportunistic elements which by and large are found in all countries. Poland has a long history of anti-Russian and anti-Soviet sentiment which combined with the strong Roman Catholic traditions forms an almost impenetrable bloc. In view of this the Communists have directed their program of communization towards the Polish youth. [] interest in this respect was particularly aroused during the period 1950-1953, a period of large-scale activity by the Union of Polish Youth (ZMP) which organization includes youth in all walks of life. 50X1-HUM
2. There were differences of opinion on the subject of communization of Polish youth. Some believed that because of the anti-Communist traditions in Poland the Polish youth would never be converted and because of the religion instilled from early youth in the confines of the home as well as the church and school they would never accept the teachings of the Communists. Others believed that the youth was vulnerable to Communism principally because the youth of today does not remember the past but looks to the future in light of present circumstances. This, coupled with the fact that the schools and religion are no longer synonymous in Poland, constituted a victory for Communism. Nevertheless, the majority of the parents with whom I spoke indicated that they were exercising their role of parents in accordance with the old-fashioned Polish tradition of "don't think or act like others tell you to think and act, but follow the good example of your parents." The Poles are not afraid of advocating such a philosophy, simply because they know that any retaliation against the parents might eventually embitter the youths. Furthermore, retaliatory action would have to be directed against the entire Polish nation.
3. It must be admitted that Communism has made progress among the Polish youth, particularly, through the ZMP, however, it would be a mistake to label all the Polish youth who belong to the Communist-operated organization as Communists. The reasons for joining the organization are as varied as the members themselves. For example, to achieve any degree of success whether in industry or in white collar positions, or to become eligible for university training or even a commission in the army, one must be a member of the ZMP. The majority of the parents who permit their youngsters to join the organization do so for the youth's own welfare, hoping that the solid family training will somehow stave off the Marxist teachings which the organization feeds them. It must be borne in mind that of the 400 thousand ZMP members in 1953 more than two-thirds of them will never become Communists or even activists. Early in 1953, the Polish Communist press admitted that the majority of the youths who became members of the ZMP between 1948-1951

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comprised the so-called "opportunistic elements" and referred to them as "bourgeois infiltrators." Immediately thereafter the Party ordered an investigation which resulted in thousands of youths being expelled from the organization. Those particularly affected were youngsters whose families were financially independent prior to World War II, or who held important government positions, who were high ranking army officers, or who had relatives in Western Europe, the UK, or the US

4. Following is a list of those persons who were leaders or officials of the ZMP in 1953.

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Wladyslaw Matwin
Edward Babiuch
(fnu) Barcikowski
(fnu) Goralski
Tadeusz Wieczorek
Tadeusz Rudolf
Col Bronislaw Bednarz
Mieczlaw Ociepa
S Ludkiewicz
Col Jerzy Morawski

- end -

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